

>>> hit me with your BEST SHOT

The Skyhawk's League gives players a new place to grow. Story by Ella Felix

Opportunities open up possibilities of making new friends, engaging in new experiences, and learning new skills. The purpose of education is to open more opportunities to every student. Drake Middle School does exactly that by not just offering up new academic adventures but also by providing chances to play sports and explore interests with other peers.

Drake joined forces with the MSSP Skyhawks basketball program to give students a safe place to play a new sport. "The league provides opportunities for life, and it gives more connections for students to make friends or find something new that they love," Mrs. Jill Kline said.

Many athletes that were a part of this league were new to the game. By playing for this team, they got more playing time, a more patient coach, and teammates that are learning alongside them. "I wanted to play basketball, but I didn't want to join a super competitive league, like Gold Crown," Eme Esqueda (6) said.

Having a place to learn something new with no judgment was beneficial because they were able to grow together as a team. "While playing for Drake, I feel like we have become more of a family," Emery Wiseman (6) said.

Not only was having a relationship between teammates helpful for developing in the sport, but having a good coaching relationship helped as well. "Our coach does a good job of making everyone feel united," Isaac Parr (8) said.

The basketball teams provided a place where kids felt less pressure about the sport while still getting to pursue other interests. "In our last game, we barely lost because most of our team was at their orchestra concert," Wyatt Morgenstern (8) said.

"Playing basketball this season made me a better person because I was able to have fun with my friends, coaches, and parents in a different way this winter," Ian Boeckman (8) said.



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SHOTS FIRED. Emma Babbington (7) warms up her wrist before practice while in the gymnasium. Warming up is important to Babbington because it helps her be able to make her best shots. "Before practice I always warm up my wrists because during practice we do a lot of shooting drills," Babbington said.



photo by eifelix



photo by eifelix

LEFT RIGHT SHOOT. While doing layups, Eme Esqueda (6) works on her footwork. Layups make or break a game for Esqueda and determine if she will get a shot to score or not. "It feels good in games to make a shot because I feel like I am contributing to my teammate's hard work and mine," Esqueda said.

FREE THROW. At their last game of the season, Drew scores a free throw to win the game. He felt good about helping his team out. "This game was very fun because I shot, and we won. We win most games though because we work well as a team," Martinez said.

LAYING IT OUT THERE. Ashton Weaver (8) makes his first basket of the season. He loves being on the team even though they don't win very many games. "I like being on the team because I made a lot of friends. We won three games out of six," Weaver said.



photo by emoor



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HEAD IN THE GAME. The girl's basketball team huddles to hear their coach's game plan. The coach's game plan makes enables the team to succeed in their games. "Our coach always knows the right thing to say and how to win any game," Alina Aguiar (6) said.

BASKETS OF FUN

Players share their favorite memories from the season.

"The most memorable part was winning our first game by twenty five to eight. We are a pretty good team. I play shooting guard," Wyatt Morgenstern (8) said.



"The most memorable part was when we won our first game. I felt very accomplished. We won by 8 points, so I felt very proud of my team," Ian Boeckman (8) said.



here's what MATTERED

Alina Aguiar (6) had played basketball previously but decided to explore the sport more at Drake. "This is my first year on the basketball team. I really like it and plan to do it next year, too," Aguiar said.

She had already played for a long time. "I've loved doing basketball since I was five," Aguiar said.

She liked experiencing her favorite thing with new people. "I wanted to start basketball here so that I could do it with other Drake students because I wanted to get to know other people," Aguiar said. Aguiar loved the new experiences that came with being on the team.



I LOVE BASKETBALL BECAUSE..



"I love basketball because of our coach. He makes the sport fun and doesn't go to hard on our tougher drills."

-Sean Miller (8)

I LOVE BASKETBALL BECAUSE..



"I love basketball because our coach and our team is super nice. I have played basketball for many years and it's really fun."

-Emery Wiseman (6)

IT'S EVERYTHING.